



**REGION 6 REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM (RRT)
SEMI - ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

June, 2004

**Inland RRT Meeting
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
June 22 - 24, 2004
Westin Hotel**

NOTES FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION, JUNE 22, 2004

Session was opened by Ragan Broyles who made introductions of Coast Guard and went around the table for introductions of attendees. Recognition was given to Capt. Dan Ryan, USCG, who is retiring, to CMD Mike Drieu who is being reassigned, and to Welcome Duncan for his assistance to the RRT.

Steve Mason discussed revisions to the by-laws. It has been more than four years since they have had any revision(s). He said there appeared to be discrepancies regarding membership and voting. He requested a workgroup review this before the next RRT meeting.

Membership roster is being updated; need to maintain one list with phone numbers for use during emergencies. This should be updated once a month. The telephone numbers will not be on the website. Steve discussed the website.

Craig Carroll talked about committee members and committee structures; the need to change and the possibility of forming new committees. The current committees are: Response, Craig Carroll, Chair; Preparedness, Karolien Debusschere, Chair; Science and Technology, Buzz Martin, Chair. It was noted that committee membership needs to be updated. Craig said that there may be a need for sub-committees or ad hoc committees.

Jim Staves gave the background for the Industry Work Group (IWG) and made recommendations regarding IWG stating that the group needs to be upgraded/updated. Craig Carroll suggested that this be under the Preparedness Committee. Jim requested volunteers to work on this group. Need a scope of work. Will work offline and draft a document.

Jim Staves did a power point presentation on E-plan and gave its' current status. Discussion on how to form a committee, possibly under the Preparedness Committee.

The Near Shore Dispersant Policy was discussed. Surface washing agents are an issue. Craig Carroll commented that bio-remediation and dispersants should be an agenda item for the Response Committee.

Steve Spencer handed out and discussed the text to be attached to the Regional Contingency Plan regarding fish and wildlife resources and habitats. He would like to have comments as soon as possible. Said they want to create a database of environmental sensitive areas.

NOTES FROM GENERAL MEETING

The meeting was opened by Ragan Broyles. Opening comments were also made by Capt. Mike Drieu (USCG). Copies of by-laws were passed out. Ragan noted that the majority of the meeting was focused around homeland security, that work related to counter terrorism is being increased. Attendees introduced themselves.

Committee Reports:

The Houston-Galveston Ship Channel has been designated as the primary area for the study of the Near Shore Dispersant Policy - Coastal. There was a short discussion of the policy. NOAA will attend a meeting in DC regarding this in July.

Science and Technology Committee, Charlie Henry talked about bio-remediation and dispersants. They are writing a generic development plan - based on a case-by-case study. It was suggested that surface washing agents be an agenda item.

Steven Spencer talked about text to be attached to Regional Plan. Sees a need to create a database of environmentally sensitive areas.

Steve Mason talked about the updated RRT webpage, the items now on it and it's future use. The webpage has been up for about two weeks. If anyone has comments or suggestions, let him know. Craig mentioned, after discussion, that there are a lot of webpages where information can be obtained and that this might become confusing and felt that the Preparedness Committee should look in to possibly consolidating some of the sites.

DHHS/Environmental Health/Hospital ERT, Capt. Henry Delgado/LCDR Young. Capt. Delgado spoke about the split of responsibilities for Homeland Security (medical teams) and Public Health Service (pharmaceuticals and hospitals). PHS is still DHHS, they no longer have emergency coordinators, they are now under DHS. Patrick Young talked about hospital response. A draft hospital guidance document will be released for comment, probably in August 2004. A letter has been sent to hospitals requesting their participation in the LEPCs. Ragan questioned about DHHS setting up response teams. Capt. Delgado said these teams would be the Secretary's Emergency Response Team and when this was completed, he would get the information and have someone come to speak about this. These are teams that will be sent out from DHHS headquarters to be coordinators for nations response. Henry also said there would be an Emergency Coordinator in the regional office of DHHS.

Mark Wallace, FEMA, gave a power point presentation on the Louisiana Disaster Plan. Plan will be written in July, exercise in July (Hurricane Pam). Local, state and federal agencies will be involved. At the end of the exercise, the plan will be published. Mike's phone number is 940.898.5332.

The Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC) is trying to get information from federal agencies. Craig Carroll questioned who attended their meetings. He told Brenda he would like to have someone come down to present this to the RRT.

State Issues:

TEXAS recently did a survey of abandoned vessels along the Texas coast resulting in 380 abandoned vessels. There is no clear statutory authority in Texas to deal with this and it is considered a significant problem. Texas shrimping industry is stressed. Reported on the train derailment at Cameron and flood at Hearne, Texas.

ARKANSAS has reorganized and no longer has CSEPP (was broken up into training and exercise divisions) and has added a new division (Homeland Security). Reported on an incident in Ft. Smith. They are redoing their state plan now. Since October they have trained over 4500 people in response activities.

OKLAHOMA reported that their Homeland Security program is out of the Department of Public Safety.

NEW MEXICO is expecting wildfires because of their drought. When it does rain, results are flash flooding. Two counties have been declared disaster areas. Homeland Security, the state is asking the question, "What about our borders?"

This is their primary goal - to secure the border. They are trying to open the Santa Teresa Crossing from Mexico for hauling hazardous wastes. No date on this yet, but this should relieve the strain on the El Paso entry into Mexico.

Item from the EPA-State meeting in San Antonio: Definition of navigable waterways. This should be a topic for the next RRT meeting.

CORE/NAR: Craig Carroll did a power point presentation on both items. NAR priorities are: 1) training and exercises, 2) Response Support Corp, 3) health and safety, and 4) data management. Craig explained the Incident Management Team. There will be one in each region and a National ICS Coordinator for EPA will be designated by headquarters.

John Martin and Nancy Jones reported on exercises they had participated in.

Wayne Rickard had a power point presentation concerning NIMS/NIC and NRP. NIMS needs standards, but NIMS states that it is nothing more than a beginning document, and goes from there to development, adjustment and implementation of guidelines/standards.

NRP is in draft two form dated 4/28/04; will be reviewed by DHS Council and signed effective July 1. At that time, it will permanently replace the FRP, the Concept of Operations Plans and the interim NRP. NIC is not operational at this time.

Luis Villaneuva, OSHA, spoke about REMP. The purpose of REMP (and NEMP) is on how they will respond to emergencies, assist their responding agencies and assemble a team. Craig Carroll questioned that upon activation, could they access them for help?

They are agreeable to working with EPA. EPA wants to develop a working relationship with OSHA. Need an IAG between the agency.

Steven Spencer said he had received a message from headquarters regarding a Natural Resources ESF. This will be ESF 11-D which will be under ESF 11; Department of Agriculture is the lead. It is being written now.

Scott Harris did a power point presentation on Bio-watch, an early detection program. Monitoring and lab analysis are the key ingredients. Program started in 2003. It was suggested that, due to numerous questions, the discussion of bio-watch be continued at the next RRT meeting.

USCG issues and incidents of the last six months were reviewed through power point presentations made by LtCdr Diane Houser, MSO Houston; LtCdr Nathalie Valley, MSO, New Orleans; Lt Jennifer Hiraten, MSO Port Arthur; LtCdr Roger Henderson, MSO Morgan City; Nicole Starr, MSO Corpus Christi; Ensign Ferguson, MSO Galveston; and, Lt Richard Sanders, MSO Mobile.

FBI responded to questions of whether anything was being done about reports of suspicious calls/person, etc. These calls are not being ignored, they are being checked on. Said people calling in should call 911 first.

Capt. Drieu did a power point presentation on the Spill of Opportunity project.

A motion was made, with exception (that agencies have an opportunity to provide feedback back into the process for formal changes), to accept the protocol on dispersants by Greg Pollock and seconded by Jeff Lewellin. Vote passed.

Capt. Drieu talked about the pipeline spill issues. Discussed the handout. Biggest issue is trying to find out who is in charge, state or federal?

Next meeting will be at South Padre Island the last week of January 2005. Send agenda items to Welcome Duncan. Recommend a survey, include industry, to find items of interest and include this as part of the agenda. Will have more to do on the agenda with the reactivation of committees. Want more participation from the states. Need status of projects.

RRT voted to have an ad hoc committee review and update the by-laws.

Meeting adjourned 11:55AM, June 24, 2003.

Allman, George	EPA Region 6
Bauder, Keith	61 st CST - Arkansas
Bergman, Tom	ODEQ
Breeding, Danie	MMS
Broyles, Ragan	EPA Region 6
Campagna, Philip	EPA - ERT
Carroll, Craig	EPA Region 6
Christman, Daniel	FMCSA
Clark, Kenneth	EPA Region 6
Cote, Mick	NDMS
Crawford, Dan	GSA Region 6
Delgado, Henry	DHHS
Dorion, John	USDA - FS
Duncan, Welcome	USCG
Dunn, John	Exxon - Mobil
Ellington, Byron	TXRRC
Featherston, Brit	USAO
Ferguson, Joel	USCG
Fleming, Johnny	USDA
Goldsworthy, Mike	FEMA Region 6
Griffin, Gary	USFS
Guidry, Roland	LOSCO
Harris, Scott	EPA Region 6
Hauser, Diane	USCG
Heikamp, A.J.	MSRC
Henderson, Rogers	USCG
Henry, Charlie	NOAA
Hinatow, Jennifer	USCG
Hominick, Bob	GSA Region 6
Hurst, Stephen	FMCSA
Johns, Robert	ADEM
Jones, Nancy	EPA Region 6

Kahl, Robert	DOE - SPR
Kroone, Janice	EPA Region 7
Lee, Annabeth	U.S. Corp of Engineers
Lewellin, Jeff	TCEQ
Lyons, Edwin	AR Air National Guard
Magnin, Dale	OK Emergency Management
Martin, John	EPA Region 6
McLuskey, Molly	USDA - FS
Meyers, Jeffrey	LDEQ
Mills, Angie	EPA Region 6 - START
Miolano, Marcia	USDA - FS
Murphy, Jami	ODEQ
Paith, Ken	FBI
Pepe, Dennis	NMED
Pollock, Greg	TX GLO
Reaties, Betty	ADHOC - OHMERC
Reina, Joe	OSHA Region 6
Rickard, Wayne	DHS – FEMA Region 6
Ruhl, Chris	EPA Region 6
Ryan, Dan	USCG 8 th District
Sanders, Richard	USCG
Seiger, Jeremy	EPA Region 6
Spencer, Steve	DOI Region 6
Starr, Nicole	USCG
Staves, James	EPA Region 6 / UTD
Sternke, Walt	USDA - FS
Temperilli, John	Garner Environmental
Tullis, Christy	EPA Region 6 - START
West, Betty	EPA Region 6 - SEE
Young, Patrick	ATSDR